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5/12/52 Lec

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HEADQUARTERS

FAR EAST COMMAND

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

*Mr. H. H. H. H.*  
*W. H. H. H.*

AF0 500  
2 May 1952

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Dear Bedell:

Your helpful and objective letter of 17 April has just been received. I appreciate your deep interest in, and understanding of, our intelligence problems here in the Far East Command. I think the frank and informal exchange of views which has been going on since February is invaluable and essential to the development of sound and mutually remunerative intelligence procedures.

In that connection and in order to maintain continuity in our discussions concerning those intelligence aspects in the Far East which are of mutual interest I want to give you herewith a brief description of the intelligence efforts of your organization as it pertains to the interests of this command.

Though much remains undone and much improvement still is necessary before a fully satisfactory intelligence situation is created in the Far East I am happy to be able to tell you that in general the value to this command [ ] in the Far East has increased measurably during February and March and present indications are that continued improvements are being made during this month. I believe we are on the right track and have made a good beginning.

In analyzing the entire output of reports for this period, distinction has been made between CIA efforts within [ ] and the remainder of the CIA effort in the Far East. Both groups and particularly [ ] have shown, and are continuing to show, very definite improvement where our requirements are concerned. [ ] is showing gratifying improvements in number, in military objectivity, in timeliness, and in geographic coverage of its reports. In the past few months the number of [ ] contributions has shown a sharp increase. Its military objectivity likewise has increased greatly by furnishing us many more directly and immediately useable items of intelligence. The timeliness of reporting has increased by the acquisition and utilization of more direct and better communication means, [ ]

For the remainder of CIA Far East efforts the coverage [ ] has also improved perceptibly during this period. This step forward is particularly noticeable in greater military objectivity in reporting; and, to some

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slight extent, the geographic coverage has also increased. The remainder of the CIA Far East coverage, particularly of the [ ] un- fortunately still remains pretty much a vacuum to us and much needs to be done here to meet even the very minimum intelligence demands.

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I believe that several factors are responsible for these highly gratifying results, particularly [ ] is concerned. The establishment of [ ] with its consequent higher degree of centralization of direction of efforts, is without a doubt the most important step forward to date toward the goal of producing better and more timely intelligence.

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While [ ] is probably not the final answer to a fully integrated intelligence effort it is nevertheless considered to be a very definite improvement over the earlier non-coordinated efforts of the several agencies in this field. The efforts of [ ] have been more nearly integrated into this central structure and has resulted in greater coverage, better timeliness, and greater military objectivity.

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The greater degree of lateral liaison between [ ] and General Ennis' staff has also had very beneficial results. It appears to be responsible for a much greater military slanting [ ] reports and an improved and more accurate sourcing of reports which again leads to better evaluation and integration of these reports in the collation effort.

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I firmly believe that the most important lessons learned from these experiments with intelligence collection in this Theater are the necessity for continued close liaison and coordination between CIA and the user of its product, and of the vital necessity for continued efforts toward greater military objectivity.

Many hurdles still remain before a fully satisfactory intelligence situation will prevail in the Far East and it is to be hoped that by continued frank exchange of views on this subject and by pressing further these collection agencies the intelligence efforts will be brought up to the standard necessary for the accomplishment of the national mission in the Far East.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to write you of the favorable developments to date in these mutual intelligence efforts.

With warmest regards.

Faithfully,



General W. B. Smith  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

M. B. RIDGWAY  
General, United States Army

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